

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An expert system for designing an electrical power utility station facility, comprising:

a storage mechanism configured to store a plurality of symbols, the symbols representing components of the facility; and

a server coupled to the storage mechanism and configured to display a plurality of predefined layouts of the facility, the server being loaded with an association mechanism that applies the symbols to the predefined layouts to generate a facility construction drawing set, wherein

said association mechanism is configured to recognize a selection of at least one of a component of the facility and a design parameter for the facility, and based on said selection automatically define which of at least one of said plurality of symbols of the facility and design parameters are candidates for a subsequent selection.

Claim 2 (Original): The system of Claim 1, further comprising an application server having a memory that stores a plurality of attributes corresponding to the symbols.

Claim 3 (Original): The system of Claim 2, wherein the application server prepares at least one of a cost estimate and a materials list based upon the applied symbols.

Claim 4 (Original): The system of Claim 2, wherein the application server is configured to run at least one of a database application and a spreadsheet application to process the plurality of attributes.

Claim 5 (Original): The system of Claim 1, wherein the storage mechanism is accessible by a plurality of user stations.

Claim 6 (Original): The system of Claim 1, wherein the server provides a plurality of dialog boxes to guide selection of the symbols.

Claim 7 (Original): The system of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of dialog boxes are hierarchically arranged with respect to layers of the facility drawing set.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Original): The system of Claim 1, wherein the facility drawing set comprises construction drawings.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method of designing an electrical power utility station facility, the method comprising:

selecting a facility layout among a plurality of standard facility layouts;

retrieving a plurality of symbols from a symbol database based upon the selecting step,  
the symbols representing components of the facility;

associating the symbols with the selected facility layout;  
overlaying the symbols onto the selected facility layout; and  
generating a facility construction drawing set based upon the overlaying step, wherein  
said association step recognizes a selection of at least one of a component of the facility  
and a design parameter for the facility, and based on said selection automatically define which of  
at least one of said plurality of symbols of the facility and design parameters are candidates for a  
subsequent selection.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

displaying a plurality of design dialog boxes based upon the selecting step, the design  
dialog boxes providing prompts to guide selection of the components of the facility; and  
receiving input design information in accordance with the dialog boxes.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of Claim 10, further comprising retrieving a plurality of  
attributes corresponding to the symbols.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of Claim 12, further comprising processing the plurality  
of attributes using at least one of a database application and a spreadsheet application.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of Claim 12, further comprising generating at least one  
of a cost estimate and a materials list based upon the overlaid symbols and the corresponding  
attributes.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for designing an electrical power utility station facility, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

retrieving a plurality of symbols from a symbol database based upon a selected facility layout among a plurality of standard facility layouts, each of the standard facility layouts corresponding to a plurality of symbols, the symbols representing components of the facility;

associating the symbols with the selected facility layout;

overlaying the symbols onto the selected facility layout; and

generating a facility construction drawing set based upon the overlaying step, wherein said association step recognizes a selection of at least one of a component of the facility and a design parameter for the facility, and based on said selection automatically define which of at least one of said plurality of symbols of the facility and design parameters are candidates for a subsequent selection.

Claim 17 (Original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein the one or more processors further perform the steps of:

displaying a plurality of design dialog boxes, the design dialog boxes providing prompts to guide selection of the components of the facility; and

receiving input design information in accordance with the dialog boxes.

Claim 18 (Original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of retrieving a plurality of attributes corresponding to the symbols.

Claim 19 (Original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of processing the plurality of attributes using at least one of a database application and a spreadsheet application.

Claim 20 (Original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of generating at least one of a cost estimate and a materials list based upon the overlaid symbols and the corresponding attributes.

Claim 21 (Canceled)